

## *Business Wire*

### **Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation Allocates \$8 Million to Low-Income Residents of Texas**

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AUSTIN, Texas—(BUSINESS WIRE)—Nov. 13, 2002—The Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation (TEAJF) has announced its 2003 grant plan for the designation of \$8 million to Texas providers of civil legal services to the poor, otherwise known as Legal Aid.

The funds will assist nonprofit organizations in providing legal assistance, such as advice or representation, to individuals who cannot afford attorneys.

The Supreme Court of Texas created the Foundation ([www.txiolta.org](http://www.txiolta.org)) in 1984 to administer funds earmarked for the provision of civil Legal Aid to low-income Texans. Currently, TEAJF manages funds from the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program; Basic Civil Legal Services (BCLS), a court filing fee add-on; and the Crime Victims Civil Legal Services (CVCLS) Program.

The grant awards in Dallas and Fort Worth are as follows:

City	Organization	IOLTA	BCLS	Total
Dallas	Catholic Charities of Dallas	36,000	38,000	74,000
Dallas	Dallas Bar Association Community Service Fund	35,000	21,000	56,000
Dallas	Dallas Legal Hospice	55,000		55,000
Dallas	Housing Crisis Center	29,000	21,000	50,000
Dallas	Legal Services of North Texas(a)	321,000	196,000	517,000
Dallas	Total	476,000	276,000	276,000

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 293,000 Dallas County residents, or 13 percent of the county population, live below poverty level. Eleven percent of the Tarrant County population, or 150,000 residents, live below poverty level. The TEAJF grants will allow 39 Texas organizations, five of which are located in Dallas County and two of which are located in Tarrant County, to continue or increase their services to ensure that all Texans are afforded access to justice.

In addition to the organizations located in Dallas and Fort Worth, the Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation has allocated funds to the following organization that serves the Northwest Texas Service Area, including Dallas and Tarrant counties, but whose main office is located in another city